

1 Transitioning from Heisei to Reiwa

Gengo is a method of counting years in Japan and it is renewed when the Emperor changes.

On May 1st, the new emperor took over so Heisei ended and now we are in a new era called Reiwa

The word Reiwa was chosen from Manyoshu which is a Japanese book written over 1200 years ago.

It is said that the word Reiwa carries a wish for everyone in Japan to make a big flower bloom with hope for tomorrow.

A new era has begun in Japan and fortunately, foreign residents in Japan were also able to experience this historic event.

2 About the J-Alert communication training

On Wednesday, May 15th, there will be a country-wide J-Alert communication training.

J-Alert is a system designed to alert citizens when there is an emergency such as a missile strike, earthquake, or tsunami.

There will be an announcement stating “This is a J-Alert test” from speakers on rooftops, emergency radios and this station, FMKurara857, along with a siren.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

3 About sending tax payment notices for car and property tax

Every year on April 1st, car owners must pay the car tax.

Those who own a compact car will pay the compact car tax.

If you do not pay the car tax, you cannot receive a car inspection.

The payment notice for the car tax will be sent out from the prefecture tax office on May 7th. Likewise, the notice for the compact car tax will be sent out from the municipal tax section of the city hall on May 10th. The payment deadline is May 31st.

Additionally, on January 1st of each year, payment notices for property tax and city planning tax will be sent out to those who own land and houses within the city.

You can pay it all at once by May 31st or you can divide the payment into four parts over the course of one year.

Please beware that late payments will result in a fine.

For those who have newly built or demolished a house, please contact the property tax department of the city hall.

4 About claiming child funding

Child funding is provided to parents living in Japan with children that have not yet completed junior high school.

To claim your child funding, you must request it at the child care support or citizen life section of the city hall.

If a child is born or if you newly qualify, please make sure to request the child funding.

Child funding will not be provided just by filing for a birth certificate or transfer notice.

Please claim it within 15 days from the day of birth or from the day after you plan to move out of your previous address.

5 About the Kenshin Passport and Kenshin Guidebook

In Tochigi City, a “Kenshin Passport” is distributed to each person for notifications of specialized medical examinations such as cancer screenings.

Information for examinations in 2019 will be sent out in late May.

An envelope addressed to the head of the household will contain one “Kenshin Passport” for each person over 20 years old and one “Kenshin Guidebook” for the household.

The medical checkup reception will begin on May 23rd.

Reservations can be made by calling the health section of the city hall or you can reserve online using a smart phone or computer.

Please receive an examination using the Kenshin Passport and stay healthy!